

Jebero language

Jebero (Chebero, Xebero, Xihuila) is a moribund Amazonian language spoken by the Jebero people of Jeberos, Peru. It is spoken by only a small number of older adults and belongs to the Cahuapanan family together with Chayahuita.

Contents

- Phonology**
 - Vowels
 - Consonants
- References**
- Bibliography**

Phonology

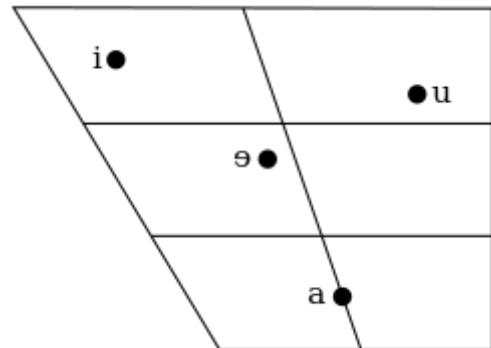
Vowels

Monophthong phonemes^[3]

	Front	Central	Back
Close	i		u
Mid		ə	
Open		a	

- /i/ varies between close front unrounded [i], near-close front unrounded [ɪ] and close-mid front unrounded [e].^[3]
- /u/ varies between near-close near-front rounded [ʊ] and close-mid back weakly rounded [ø], with the latter realization being the most usual.^[3]
- /ə/ varies between mid near-front unrounded [ɛ] and close-mid central unrounded [ə].^[3]
 - /ə/ is shorter than the other vowels, particularly between voiceless consonants.^[3]
 - The sequence /ən/ is sometimes realized as a syllabic [n].^[3]
- /a/ varies between open central unrounded [ä] and near-open retracted front [æ].^[3] The vowel chart in Valenzuela & Gussenhoven (2013) puts /a/ in the near-open central position [ə].
 - In closed syllables, /a/ is realized as open-mid central unrounded [ɔ].^[3]

Jebero	
<i>Shiwilu</i>	
Native to	Peru
Region	Jeberos
Ethnicity	2,500 (2000)
Native speakers	30 (2011) ^[1]
Language family	Cahuapanan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Jebero
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	jeb
Glottolog	jebe1250 (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/jebel1250) ^[2]



Monophthongs of Jebero, from Valenzuela & Gussenhoven (2013:101)

Consonants

Consonant phonemes^[4]

	<u>Labial</u>	<u>Alveolar</u>	<u>Postalveolar</u>	<u>Palatal</u>	<u>Velar</u>	<u>Glottal</u>
<u>Nasal</u>	<u>m</u>	<u>n</u>			<u>ŋ</u>	
<u>Stop</u>	<u>p</u>	<u>t</u>			<u>k</u>	<u>?</u>
<u>Affricate</u>			<u>tʃ</u>			
<u>Fricative</u>		<u>s</u>	<u>f</u>			<u>(h)</u>
<u>Trill</u>	<u>plain</u>		<u>r</u>			
	<u>glottalized</u>		<u>?r</u>			
<u>Approximant</u>	<u>central</u>	<u>w</u>	<u>ð</u>		<u>j</u>	
	<u>lateral</u>		<u>l</u>		<u>ʎ</u>	

- /m, p/ are bilabial, whereas /w/ is labialized velar.
- /tʃ/ is an affricate, rather than a plosive.^[4] It has nevertheless been placed in the table in that manner to save space.
- /n, t, ð, l/ are laminal denti-alveolar [n, t, ð, l].^[5]
 - In the syllable coda, /n/ is realized with a wider contact, maximally dentoalveolo-velar [nŋ].^[5]
 - After /u, a/, the denti-alveolar contact is often not made, which makes /n/ sound more like a velar nasal [ŋ].^[5]
 - /ð/ may sometimes sound as if it were a lateral consonant, but it is never realized as lateral.^[3]
- /n, ʎ/ are dentoalveolo-palatal [n, ʎ].^[5]
 - /ʎ/ is sometimes realized as a weak fricative [ʎ̚].^[3]
 - /h/ occurs only in the affirmative interjection [ahã].^[4]
 - /r/ is realized as a flap [r] in the syllable onset and as a trill [r] in the syllable coda.^[5]
 - /?r/ is a glottalized flap [?r]. Intervocally, it is realized as a sequence [r?].^[5]

References

1. "Jebero" (<https://www.ethnologue.com/language/jeb>). *Ethnologue*. Retrieved 2018-07-23.
2. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Jebero" (<http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/jewe1250>). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
3. Valenzuela & Gussenoven (2013), p. 101.
4. Valenzuela & Gussenoven (2013), p. 98.
5. Valenzuela & Gussenoven (2013), p. 100.

Bibliography

- Valenzuela, Pilar M.; Gussenhoven, Carlos (2013), "Shiwili (Jebero)" (http://gep.ruhousing.nl/carlos/shiwili_jipa19.pdf) (PDF), *Journal of the International Phonetic Association*, 43 (1): 97–106, doi:10.1017/S0025100312000370 (<https://doi.org/10.1017%2FS0025100312000370>)

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